

# Mary Ann Wright



**Sunrise:**  
July 11, 1921

**Sunset:**  
May 7, 2009



*"I must work the work of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" ..... St. John 9:4*

# CIVIC MEMORIAL

## MASTER OF CEREMONY

Mr. Dan Ashley

### MUSICAL PRELUDES .....

Rev. Charles R. Webb • Bro. Carl Wheeler, Jr.

### THE PROCESSIONAL .....

Adjutant R. McKnight • Clergy • Civic Officials • Pallbearers • The Family

### A SONG .....

Mrs. Addie Mae Mitchell

### THE INVOCATION .....

Dr. Earl Stuckey, Sr.

### THE HOLY SCRIPTURES .....

Old Testament - Elder Norris Howard • New Testament - Supt. Joseph Chatman

### A SONG .....

Mrs. Joyce Sneed

### SPECIAL REMARKS .....

Mayor Ronald V. Dellums, CITY OF OAKLAND

Attorney General Jerry Brown • Nancy Nadel - Council Member, District 3

Sandra Swanson - California State Assembly, (AD-16)

Office of Congresswoman Barbara Lee, (CA-9) - Saundra Andrews

Representative from Alameda County Board of Supervisors

### A MUSICAL RENDITION .....

Lolita Sweet & Raw Sugar - Dwayne Wiggins & POPLYFE

### A TAMBOURINE TRIBUTE .....

Mrs. Dottie Durham

### FAMILY TRIBUTES .....

Cassi Wright

### A SONG .....

Elder Ricky Hannah

### SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS .....

Ms. VaShone Huff

### COMMUNITY REFLECTIONS .....

Iron Souls Ambassadors & Kristina Seher

### CLERGY REPRESENTATION .....

Supt. Samuel Bobo

### RESOLUTIONS .....

Mrs. Barbara Webb

### A SONG .....

Mrs. Alfreda Campbell

### IN REMEMBRANCE .....

Rev. Clarence Johnson

### INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER .....

Rev. Dr. Lawrence VanHook, President BMU

### SERMONIC SOLO .....

Ms. Gail Webb

### EXHORTATIONS .....

**Reverend Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr., Pastor Emeritus - ALLEN TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH, OAKLAND, CA**

### A GLIMPSE 'TIL GLORY .....

FOUCHE'S HUDSON FUNERAL HOME

### RECESSIONAL .....

# HOMEGOING CELEBRATION

for

## Mother Mary Ann Wright

Thursday, May 28, 2009  
10:00 A.M.

**Acts Full Gospel Church of God In Christ**

Bishop Robert Jackson, Senior Pastor  
1034 66th Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94621

- MASTER OF CEREMONY -

**Bishop James L. Langston, Jr., B.Arch, D.D.**  
~ Ekklesia Ministries International ~  
HAMILTON MEMORIAL CHURCH  
2398 Geary Blvd.  
San Francisco, CA 94115

- EULOGIST -

**BISHOP W. W. HAMILTON**

*Prelate, California Northwest Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction*  
*General Board Secretary - Churches Of God In Christ Inc., Memphis, TN*

## *Angel of the Poor*

Arrangements Entrusted Into the Care of

**Fouche's Hudson Funeral Home**

3665 Telegraph Avenue  
Oakland, California

INTERMENT

**Mountainview Cemetery**

5000 Piedmont Avenue  
Oakland, California

# *Mother Mary Ann Wright*

**- TO LIE IN STATE -**

Wednesday, May 27, 2009

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

**OAKLAND MARRIOTT CITY CENTER**

**Jewett Ballroom**

1001 BROADWAY STREET  
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

## **CIVIC MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Wednesday, May 27, 2009

6:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

**East & West Halls**

**- MASTER OF CEREMONIES -**

**Mr. Dan Ashley, Channel 7**

**- OFFICIANT -**

**Reverend Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr. - *Pastor Emeritus***  
**ALLEN TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH - OAKLAND, CA**

# HOMEGOING CELEBRATION

## MASTER OF CEREMONIES

BISHOP JAMES L. LANGSTON, JR., *B.ARCH, D.D.*  
- Ekklesia Ministries International -

MUSICAL PRELUDES .....	Rev. Charles R. Webb • Bro. Carl Wheeler, Jr.
THE PROCESSIONAL .....	Chief Adjutant R. Britt • Clergy • Civic Officials • Pallbearers • The Family
INTRODUCTION OF MASTER OF CEREMONIES .....	Dr. Wendell McCoy
A SONG .....	<b><i>Mary Ann Wright Memorial Choir</i></b>
THE INVOCATION .....	Dr. Doris Limbrick
THE HOLY SCRIPTURES .....	Old Testament - Elder Arthur Stewart • New Testament - Dr. E. J. O'Neal
MUSICAL RENDITION .....	Rev. Charles R. Webb
REFLECTIONS .....	Civic Representatives
	Mayor Ronald V. Dellums, <i>City of Oakland</i>
	Family Friends: Mr. Frank Fanelli - Mr. Dale Bridges
A SONG .....	"Never Could Have Nade It" .....Mr. Sean Wright
FAMILY TRIBUTES .....	Spechelle Babb - Angela Whealer - Illya Dailey - Daniel Wright
SPECIAL REMARKS .....	Elder Charles Bryant
	Supt. Samuel Gaskins • Dr. Fadis Wagoner, <i>EVANGEL JURISDICTIONAL SUPERVISOR</i>
	Administrative Assistant Victorene Houston, <i>Representing Dr. Mary M. Welch, CNW</i>
WORDS OF COMFORT .....	Bishop E. C. Reems-Dickerson
A SONG .....	Missionary Audrey Miles-Williams
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CONDOLENCES .....	Sister Betty Baham
CLERGY REPRESENTATION .....	Jurisdictional Bishops
	Elder Norris Howard - Supt. Robert Smith, <i>CENTRAL DISTRICT</i>
	Supt. John A. Jennings, <i>SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT CNW</i>
	Dr. L. W. Keeton - <i>PASTOR, WAGONER MEMORIAL COGIC</i>
A SONG .....	<b><i>Mary Ann Wright Memorial Choir</i></b>
RESOLUTIONS .....	
	WAGONER MEMORIAL COGIC • CENTRAL DISTRICT • Supt. Samuel Bobo, CNW
	SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS - Mrs. Barbara Webb
IN REMEMBRANCE .....	Read Silently
INTRODUCTION OF EULOGIST .....	Supt. Samuel Bobo, <i>Sr. ADMN. ASSIST. CNW</i>
SERMONIC SOLO .....	Elder Moses Tyson, Jr.
EULOGY .....	<b>The Right Reverend W. W. Hamilton, <i>PRELATE CNW, GENERAL BOARD SECRETARY COGIC</i></b>
A GLIMPSE 'TIL GLORY .....	FOUCHE'S HUDSON FUNERAL HOME
RECESSIONAL .....	

## *In Remembrance*

Mary Ann was born July 11, 1921 in New Orleans, Louisiana to Peter E. and Earnestine Day Coleman. When Mary Ann was 5 years old, her mother passed. She had three brothers, Joseph, Nathaniel and Earnest; and two sisters, Adel and Cora. She was raised in Darlington, LA. by her father and relatives. She attended both school and church at Elder Pound's Holy Church of God in Christ. She was able to receive a second grade scholastic opportunity.

Mary Ann was married at age 14 to Howard Wright, Sr. In 1950, she with her five daughters traveled by train to Oakland, California to find a different life and to escape the flatlands of Louisiana. A year later, she returned to Louisiana to bring her four sons out to California.

Mary Ann was a domestic worker by day and spent summers working with her children in various cotton, fruit and vegetable fields in rural areas in Northern California. She spent her days and nights working in the Bay Area Local Canneries and held the records as a Top Performer. During this time, she had eleven (11) children; Bill, Allen, Gloria, Howard, Reynolds, Linda, Joel, Barbara, Carolyn, Chris and Monica. She adopted William, her twelfth child; and was also mother to several other foster children.

Mary Ann's love for God has always been a central part of her life. As a Missionary of the church, she served in many capacities of the church; to include singing, playing the tambourine at church services, and showing her natural talent of playing the piano by ear.

Mary Ann was a loyal and faithful member of the Wagoner Memorial Church of God in Christ. She loved her church and was always on time for her Sunday School Class.

Mary Ann was President of the Hospitality Department in California Northwest Jurisdiction for many years. She represented her Jurisdiction in the National Hospitality Department of the Churches of God in Christ. She also served in the World Pentecostal Auxiliary knowing that God and church are the Anchors of her Life.

Mary Ann had a passion to travel and envisioned seeing the world while looking through the World Book Encyclopedia. She received a gift through favor, showing hard work, which gave her an opportunity to touch and view the world. In 1984, the Olympic Committee selected her to represent the United States of America as Senior Hostess. Since that time, she has travelled to many countries and continents. She was later selected as a lifetime member of the Amateur Athletic Union. Mother Wright would say, *"Just Leaving a Few Footprints in the Sand of Time..."*

Mary Ann received a vision from God in 1980, at the age of fifty-nine. She began feeding the hungry after a vision from God awoke her from sleep. In her obedience to God, she used her small check to begin buying food for the poor; serving them out of the trunk of her car; which was the start of the Mary Ann Wright Outreach Mission. She then began cooking in her own kitchen, and taking hot meals to the hungry in Jefferson Park, Oakland, CA.

Mother Wright's answer to the Call of God would eventually lead to the establishment of the MARY ANN WRIGHT FOUNDATION. In 1992, through her inspiration and zeal, she opened a center for the homeless. She started an eighteen (18) unit Transitional Home for men struggling with alcohol and drug abuse. Mother Wright would say, *"Always an Angel of the Poor"*.

Mother Wright acquired a warehouse in 1997, located at 30th Street and San Pablo Avenue in the City of Oakland. There she fed more than 450 people a day on a shoestring budget. In 2004, Mother Wright encouraged her grand-son, in Phoenix, AZ to build the Southwest Sports Academy; which is an inner city kid's sports and vocational learning program for poor kids. Her mission and goal was to serve people who are striving to rebuild their lives from poverty and homelessness in our local communities and communities throughout the world.

Mother Wright has been a part of every National and Global tragedy in the past twenty-seven (27) years; providing food, clothing and medication. Whether passing out 3,000 loaves of fresh bread daily to local families, supplying other local shelters with goods or providing bricks to build a school for the blind in Keyna; she would say, *"The Lord has blessed me. I cannot save the world, but I can sure put a dent in it"*.

Mother Wright was nationally recognized for her public service by, Presidents Jimmy Carter, Ronald Regan, George Bush and Bill Clinton. She also received recognition from the State of California, the County of Alameda, the City of Oakland; Local, National and International Churches; Public and Private Schools; Colleges and Universities; Corporate and Small Business Organizations; Civil Service Relations with members of the Local Fire and Police Divisions. *There are no big I's and little U's. Everybody is Somebody, because we all came from the Royal Family of God"*.

Mother Wright has been recognized locally, nationally and globally. Her passion, with the help of local media and sponsorship, has given her over two hundred awards of acknowledgments. In 2005, the National Caring Institute in Washington, D.C., inducted her into its Hall of Fame for Caring Americans. Her mothering and nurturing spirit was expansive, reaching far beyond blood lines to thousands of hungry and needy people throughout the United States of America and globally, including Africa and Mexico. As Mother would say, *"Praise the Lord"*.

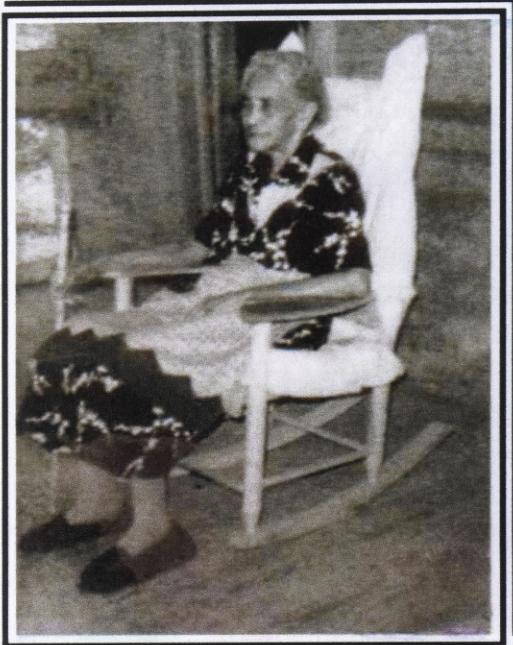
Mother Wright served faithfully, her church and Foundation, until her health began to fail. At the age of 87, she is survived by two (2) sisters, eight (8) children, twenty-seven (27) grandchildren, thirty-nine (39) great-grandchildren and the Wagoner Memorial Church Family. With many great treasured memories of a fulfilled life, Joseph, Nathaniel, Ernest, Bill, Allen, Linda, La'Vicia Le'one, Godfrey and Kiana has preceded her in death.

Mother Wright, the Philanthropist, was a courageous woman who devoted her life to helping others. She left the world loving all her children. Mother Wright road the golden wings of God, spreading love and grace through the world. Now she rest, well done my faithful servant.

Mother Wright's passion and devotion to do God's work will carry on for generations to come. The most fitting way to honor her memory is to take it upon ourselves to help those within our communities who are less fortunate than we are.

Mother Wright would say, *"For there are no mistakes for what we have, because what we have, the Lord has provided"*.

**Molly Johnson, Grandmother**



**Ernestine Day Coleman, Mother**



**Mother Wright & Family**



**"Praise The Lord"**



**Caring American Award**



# HONORARY PALL BEARERS



## SONS

Howard, Reynolds, Chris

## GRANDSONS

Wayne West, Andre Reed, Tyler Chapman, Kevin Wright,  
Ramon Smith, Delmar Tillis, Valdez Johnson, Kale Wright,  
Sean Wright, LaVerio Barnes, Illya Dailey

## GREAT-GRAND SONS

## GREAT-GREAT-GRAND SON

Eric Martin, Nephew  
Tracy Jenkins, Family

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## ~ ACTIVE PALLBEARERS ~

City of Oakland Police Department  
City of Oakland Fire Department

## ~ FUNERAL ESCORTS ~

Iron Souls Ambassadors

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The family of Mother Mary Ann Wright wish to express our sincere appreciation to you for your attendance at these services. We appreciate your many acts of kindness, your prayers, phone calls, visits, beautiful cards, flowers, telegrams you shared with our family during this time of bereavement.

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to the churches, media, the community and leaders of the City of Oakland for the continuous support you've poured into our mother and the **MARY ANN WRIGHT FOUNDATION**. A very Special Thanks to every person, small business or corporation who made contributions to the Legacy our Mom has left behind. God Bless You.

# Mother Mary Ann Wright



*"I do this work because it is a mission  
that God gave me."*

*Dr. Mary Ann Wright*